

PENTWATER MEMORIES

By Claudia Schlick Goudschaal

My sister and I spent childhood summers at Bass Lake where my grandmother, Erva Schlick, had a resort on the US 31 side of the lake. It was a small hotel with a huge dining room and screened porch with twelve rockers a la Mackinac's Grand Hotel and eight cottages. Pentwater was our supplies town and the usual entertainment treat destination.

GOING TO TOWN

When a "want" list was long enough we piled into the 1929 pea green Ford with a rumble seat and went "to town". While my grandmother, mom, dad or aunt shopped at Myers and the hardware store, we dashed down to the corner drug store to buy a small turquoise and silver ring and a sailor hat to make our summer complete. We returned to Myers to watch Mr. Myers. He was tall and had the pinkest cheeks we'd ever seen on a man. We wondered if he used rouge like our older cousin Marymae. When we were older we learned he carried many a family on his

charge list for long periods until they could pay. When my grandmother received her first deposits and rents for cottages each spring she went at once to Myers to proudly pay off the account she'd lived on part of the winter. Her generation was not one to be beholden to anyone.

The hardware store was on the corner, a dark and mysterious place to us with all kinds of things for building and repairs. It was a serious, no nonsense place for children but we enjoyed it anyway. I always was fascinated by the building's architecture too. Back across the street we peeked into Chet's, the town garage. It was always interesting with clanging noises, hissing noises and all kinds of work going on with all kinds of different cars. The tiny office up front was off limits. We knew that without being told, for it was for paying bills, no little thing in the Great Depression.

We went gingerly past Mr. Kent's funeral parlor although

(Continued on page 2)

Meet The Author



Claudia Schlick Goudschaal
1928 - 2009

Claudia Schlick Goudschaal is the granddaughter of Erva Schlick and daughter of Claude Schlick. Pentwater has been an important part of her life. Her grandmother Erva had the Bass Lake hotel and cottages from just after WWI, giving them to Claude who had them until 1972. Erva bought the property from Margaret McKee when she and her husband Tom decided to leave Chicago after the flu of 1918 in favor of a healthier life in Michigan.

She read in the newsletter that we were interested in having stories and photos of Pentwater,

so she wrote these little bits about her own early days in Pentwater.

A cousin, Myrtle Lovell Disbrow lived in town for many years, first in Jenny Wren and then several blocks farther north on US 31. Another cousin, Marymae Hale, spent summers in Pentwater until her death about 3 years ago.

Another cousin, Chris Dunn, still has her maternal grandmother's old cottage on Bass Lake a few doors north of the former Schlick property. They are so happy that he has maintained it very much as when it was built, probably around 1910. Instead of remodeling it to today's standards he built an apartment over the garage for winter use with all of the modern comforts. The original cottage is used for warmer weather and preserves so many memories.

if we saw him, we stopped to visit. We liked him for he wasn't as tall as the other men and wore a bow tie. After trotting with our adults south down the block past the bakery and other stores to the post office and the inevitable visits with people there, we were rewarded with a soda or ice cream cone from the Soda Bar of the drugstore. Sometimes dad looked in at Billy Gray's Antler Bar for a minute to visit too, although he never stayed.

We returned north up the street past Esther Dempsy in the pretty tiny white gazebo that housed the chamber of commerce. We checked out what was on at the movie theater and usually knew we'd get there one night to see it, sometimes invited to accompany resort guests and their children although we paid our own way with pride.

Our grandmother had the only telephone and mail box on the west side of the lake and we were dispatched to run down the back lane to the other

seven or eight cottages with mail for them or when someone was wanted on the phone. For this we were usually given a nickel or dime and this was our movie and town money fund. When a Tarzan movie played we tried to see it several times, for we'd created our own jungle with ropes and buckets to haul up and down the maple and beech trees in our woods and were always looking for new ideas.

I always wanted to go down to the yacht club and the docks, indulging even then in a life long love of boats still as intense as ever. Sometimes when family came to visit we'd go to the beach, driving past Nickerson Inn and the Coast Guard station. Both were always spruced up and glistening with white paint amid lovely landscaping. I hoped one day I'd grow up to live in Pentwater in a cottage along the channel or in one of the old square, gracious General Grant style homes on the streets behind the main street.

COMING OF AGE IN PENTWATER

Pentwater experienced as a young adult was still a fun and happy place to be although it sometimes proved embarrass-

ing too. At sixteen, well into being the family "go for" I was dispatched to the lumber yard for some building materials dad needed. Driving proudly up to the entrance, I stopped and said in a very firm voice, "I'm here to pick up three shifts of sheet rock for Mr. Schlick." After exploding helplessly in laughter he waved me on back to the loading yard while I, red faced, wanted only to get the wretched materials and get out - fast.

For years I'd dreamed of the Commodore's Ball at the yacht club and watched older girls as they alighted in formal gowns for the occasion. When at last I was invited to go, I was ecstatic and celebrated by going to the beach with friends, where I fell asleep while they took a final dip. I awoke with a parboiled lobster appearance when they returned, and although we worked hard with pancake makeup and powder, I had the choice of looking like a clown in whiteface or an only slightly paler sunburned castaway. Said castaway

went anyway. My date was kind enough not to be obviously upset with his partner, and after my initial qualms we did both enjoy the evening anyway.

As teens my sister and I both landed jobs at the Pentwater Dairy Bar. Our family said we'd soon be sick of ice cream but somehow that never happened. We worked with several other girls and soon were making malteds, sundays, sodas, fizzy drinks and light lunches. Left alone in dull moments we invented exotic combinations for our own malteds and sundays, combining the many flavors of ice cream with the variety of sauces and always topped with nuts and whipped cream. Once I went absolutely blank when a man ordered an egg sandwich. I couldn't figure out how a runny egg would stay on a sandwich, but one of the older girls said, "Well you FRY the egg first." I'd never heard of a fried egg sandwich and he'd left out the word FRIED in his order.

Later, as a college student, I spent a few days sharing a room at Mr. Sayers' with Jen Duncan just before she became Bill Duncan's wife. I helped out with the ice deliveries



Claudia played the role of ship's cook on the schooner Inland Seas based at Suttons Bay and volunteered at the Inland Seas Education Association.

while someone was gone, as there were few boys or men available due to the war, and I was big and strong. Although it was hard work we had fun too, especially in the Ludington ice plant while the truck was being loaded.

I remember Stuffy Gwilliam in his little yellow Crosley wagon and admired both his home and the octagon house on the south end of town. It was at the marina near there that, years later, my husband and I found our 1967 Chris-Craft. After a tour of it my grandmother said, "It's nice, dear, but where are the oarlocks? I didn't see any."

My grandmother spent winters in the Enders home until she sold her resort and came to live in Pentwater with my dad about 1972. My cousins, Dr Frank and Myrtle Lovell, bought Jenny Wren and we sometimes stayed there on weekends. He was active in the Masons, and she found friends in the Methodist church. Later, after years as a widow, she became Mrs. Disbrow and lived in a home on US 31 at the north end of town. Later, still another cousin from St. Louis spent summers in her little white cottage with a big yard about 5 blocks from downtown. All are gone now, but memories remain.

I live quite happily in a home overlooking Lake Michigan halfway between Leland and Northport but, along with Bass Lake, Pentwater will always be the home of my heart.

Claudia wrote this in September of 2009, but sadly, she passed away November 14, 2009.

NEW MEMBERS

Zane Nietiedt	Michael & Jill Stenberg	Ellen Brown
Larry Christensen	Pam & Tony Sisson	Sue Grace
Linda Eisenlohr	Lewis (Bud) Stenberg	Carla Fisher
Cal Levich	Tom & Cindy Ringwald	Mary McDonald
Audrey Newton	Jim & Robin Walicike	Sandra Strong
Cathy Sibley	Jerry & Sheryl Wygant	Charles Smith
Gordon Veldman	Oliver Stanchfield	Don & Dee Becke
	Bill & Diane Gardy	

NEW LIFE MEMBER

Robert & Greta MacKeough

CONVERSION OF EXISTING MEMBER TO LIFE

Dan & Teri Filius	Francis & Donna Mills	Janet Nelson
Fredrick Immer	Dean & Maureen Gustafson	Kathleen B. Cox

DEATHS

Barbara Cross	Carol Hale	George Buchner	Fred Jobbin
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DONATIONS

Pentwater Yacht Club	Michael Stenberg	John Franke
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THE PENTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPRING DINNER

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Social Hour 6:00pm (BYOB)

Swiss Steak or Chicken Dinner 6:30pm

***Karen Urick will give a Special
Presentation on Genealogy!***

At The Pentwater VFW Hall

This event open to the public.

Enjoy this social and educational event

ONLY \$13.00

(Must be obtained by noon, May 22)

TICKETS ON SALE AT:

• Society Officers • The Pentwater Township Library • Durand's Wine Shop



On the upper floor of the Village/Township Hall, the "old" basketball court serves as a storage area for records and back issues of old Pentwater newspapers. Three senior students, Jessica Carlson, Amanda Deuling and Megan Wilicki, along with Bob Childers, Delores Sturr and Nancy Grant went to work organizing and filing the newspapers on Community Service Work Day on May 4, 2009. They had a great time and enjoyed reviewing the old papers and reading some of the contents.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GEORGE H. CLUCHEY

Golden Glove Champion, Professional Boxer & Deep Sea Diver

You might know George Cluchey, but few people are aware of his many talents and lifetime achievements! It was a real pleasure to interview George as my subject for the 2010 PHS Winter Newsletter President's Message.

Once again, I am amazed to find another Pentwater person that



George H. Cluchey

is a true example of dedication, spirit, intestinal fortitude, and one who possess unique abilities and skills. At 93 years of age and still going strong, George has lived a full and rewarding life. Many years of George's nine plus decades have been right here in Pentwater!

As for family history his Grandparents were Paul and Savanna Cluchey. George is the 2nd son

of Michael from Pentwater and Emma (Christian) from Mears. His parents were married in 1910 at the Weare St. Joseph Church. George was born on November 17, 1917 in Pentwater, Michigan. Now deceased are his older brother Don and younger sister Evelan. Included in the family are the following step brothers and sisters: Hazel, Izora, Rose (Peacock), Beatrice, Louis, Edward, Clinton, Mitchel and Ladore all of whom are from his father's first marriage. In 1936, George graduated from Ludington High School and his family moved from a farm into Ludington for employment reasons.

After graduating George attended the University of Marquette in Milwaukee for the next year and a half.

On May 26, 1943 George married Helen Sterns of Ludington, Michigan and together they raised the following children: Cheri was born at the Air Force Base, Goodfellow Field, Texas while Michael and Judy were born in nearby San Angelo, Texas. Colleen and



A portrait of George during his fighter pilot days during WWII.

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Now that we are in the depths of winter, being preoccupied with keeping close tabs on

the thermometer and snowfall amounts, how easy it is to slip back into the memories filled with the beauty of summer's flowers. And who can think about flowers without thinking about The Garden Club of Pentwater.

Organized in July of 1930 and becoming federated in August of 1932, it is officially '80 years "young" this year!

Mrs. Francis J. Diner was the first president. She encouraged several others to join her as the group pulled weeds, planted flowers and began a "beautification project" which the club of today continues.

The current club is known for its successful plant sale at Bell Park on Memorial Day weekend, its colorful Garden Walk in mid July, the planting and maintaining of three gardens in town, helping the school children plant their playground

FLOWERS

In Our Town



garden and another in front of the school and 3rd grade classroom, as well as other activities.

Each month the club selects a garden in town to be honored as the "Garden of the Month." Here are but a few samples for you to enjoy.



Visitors (& new members) are always welcome to the organization's interesting monthly meetings and field trips, which are held from March to early December, on the third Tuesday, 1:30 in the afternoon, usually at the Pentwater Friendship Center. The president for 2010 is Linda Osborn. She can be reached at 869-4122 for further information.



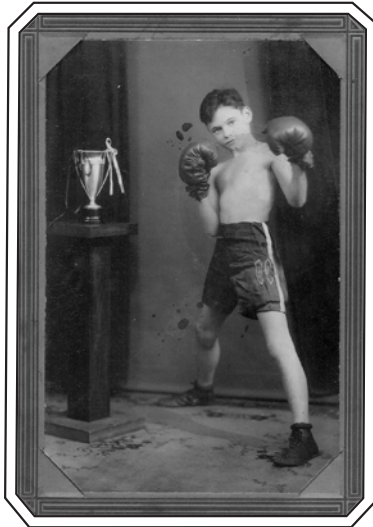
The Garden Club Members



Patrick were both born in Pentwater, Michigan. As you can see, the family was on the move as George followed his career and livelihood as a deep sea hard hat diver.

Physical Fitness to Champion Boxer

George's boxing career started in 1928 and ended in 1940. At eleven years of age he joined the Wolverine Athletic



George at 11 years old in 1928.

Club in Ludington. The club was sponsored by the Ludington Elks and was located above the post office. Both George and his brother Don became interested in boxing and began their training by running from the family farm, located over five miles from Ludington. George honed his boxing skills through frequent coaching by Roger Bernard of Flint, Michigan, who was then the Junior Lightweight

World Champion, whenever he was in the Ludington area.

In 1934, George entered the Golden Gloves Tournament in the Flyweight Division at 112 pounds and won the Western Michigan Regional Championship. His last Golden Gloves Tournament was in 1935, and he won the Western Michigan Regional Championship Lightweight Title at 135 pounds. In 1936, George trained in a gymnasium located on 66th Street in Chicago, Illinois, with Johnny Coulon who was a World Bantam Weight Champion. Also in this year, George fought in a number of elimination tournaments in Chicago through the CYO and won Championships. George won a bout against Andy Scrivani which qualified him to participate as a member of the U.S. Olympic Boxing Team. The Olympics were held in Berlin, Germany. Unfortunately, George broke his right wrist trying to jump a chain across a walkway in Jackson Park, while on a training run, and was replaced by Andy Scrivani as a representative to the United States Olympic Boxing Team. From 1934 through 1936, George won 36 out of 43 boxing bouts. In 1938 through 1940, George was a professional Lightweight Boxer, winning 20 out of 23 boxing matches. During these years he boxed in Muskegon and



George as a champion boxer in 1938.

Grand Rapids, Michigan; also in Chicago, Houston, San Antonio and in Roswell, New Mexico.

United States Army

On April 17th, 1941, George became a member of the 126th Regiment of the 32nd Red Arrow Infantry Division. In 1943, George was transferred to the Army Air Corps where he became a Tech Sergeant pilot flying P-40 and P-51 Fighter Aircraft for the Army. As an Army Pilot, he was stationed at Kelly, Randolph and Goodfellow Airfields in Texas. Due to an excess number of Fighter Pilots and his known qualities for fitness, George was then assigned to the Physical Education Department as an instructor of Aviation Cadets for the next two years. George also became the Chief Flight Dispatcher at the Airfield. He was discharged from military service in December of 1945. During the aforementioned time period, George continued his education with two years of study in Business Administration at the San Angelo College in West Texas.

Professional Deep Sea Diver

As for becoming a Commercial Marine Hard Hat Diver, George was introduced to what would be his working career field as a young eleven year old boy doing general work duties for his father's business called M. O. Cluchey Commercial Marine Construction out of Ludington, Michigan. In 1940, George became a Hard Hat Diver with



George as a deep sea diver.

assignments of inspecting off shore Cribbing and Intake Water Line Systems in the Great Lakes. In 1948, he joined his brother Don in the Marine Construction business and did deep sea diving in Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois. Some of the company's work was for the U. S. Coastguard inspecting and repairing boat launches, docks and various water related facilities. In 1950 through 1954, George joined the Raymond Pile Company out of Chicago where he did pile diving for buildings and docks. George stayed with this company for a ten year period. From June 1954 through 1956, he worked for the firm of Merritt Chapman and Scott as a diver and rigger which included deep diving work on the Mackinaw Bridge. In 1956, George was in charge of taking construction barges for winter storage in Chicago down Lake Michigan and along the Wisconsin shoreline in harrowing weather. George left this firm in 1958 and became a free lance hard hat diver for major oil companies and was employed to do underwater burning, welding and pho-

tography. This work centered on underwater pipelines from offshore wells to the refineries. During this working



The Cluchey Work Barge at Pentwater.

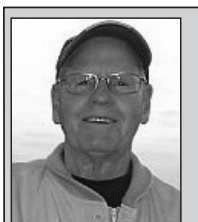
period of his career George and family had moved to Morgan City, Louisiana as a centralized location for work assignments which continued into 1970.

Real Estate Broker/Appraiser and Oceana County Service

In 1971, the Cluchey family returned to Pentwater. George decided on a new career field and became a licensed Real Estate Associate Broker. As a Broker, George worked for the local firms of Oceana Realty in Rothbury and Three Lakes Realty's office in Pentwater. Also in 1971, George became a State of Michigan licensed Appraiser and worked in both of these fields until he officially retired in 2008. From 1972 to approximately 1982, George served on the Oceana County Planning Commission. For ten years, George further served as Oceana County Representative to the West Shore Regional Development Commission and held the position of Vice Chairman for two years.

Now if my math is right, George Cluchey's working journey started at the age of 11 in 1928 and ended at the age of 92 in 2008, or a span of 80 years, which to me is absolutely incredible!!!

So, as I bring George's personal life story to a close, it is my pleasure to share with you that George Cluchey is an awesome man, sharp as a tack at age 93, and a devoted, loving family man. This man has demonstrated that believing in principals and dedicating your life to bettering yourself, is achievable and rewarding when founded on good bedrock ethics. All of these excellent traits George has are readily appreciated by those of us having the privilege of making his acquaintance and friendship. Take the opportunity to visit George and Helen at 258 Third street in Pentwater and personally experience this truly outstanding man. George is another perfect example of people that have enriched our Pentwater heritage. Personal life history abounds around us if we are willing to take the time to find it, and of course, share it with others!



ED BIGLOW
President
PENTWATER
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bob's Corner

by Bob Childres

To the ladies of our audience; I know your first question for me, your fashion editor, will be, "Just what are we going to be wearing this fall season. What kind of new hats are available? Why has it taken you so long to write about this very important issue of ours?" Oh yee of little faith. Do you honestly



think I would let you down? I thought not. To correct this oversight I traveled ALL the way up from my spring, summer, fall and winter estate out here on the edge of the Pentwater Plains, ALL the way up to downtown Pentwater just to visit the fashion salons of our fair city. In a later issue I will cover the winter coats and dresses you will be wearing.

I personally like the picture in the upper right corner. It looks like she found a branch of an oak tree and stuck it in her hair.

GOT PHOTOS?

You may be one of the many people who have older, historical photos of Pentwater that you would like to share. The Historical Society would like to take a look at them and possibly preserve them by scanning or copying and then returning them to you.

2007-2008 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES OF THE PENTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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President	V-President	Secretary	Treasurer

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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRWOMAN: Karen Way

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Sharon O'Donnell	Jim Pikaart	Bruce Bates
Editor	Layout/Design	Photo Editor

USE THIS FORM TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE PENTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HOME ADDRESS _____

SUMMER ADDRESS _____

From _____ To _____

NAME _____ NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ PHONE _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: • Patron \$500* • Life \$125* • Sustaining \$40*
 • Annual \$10* • Student \$3 (* Includes Spouse)

STATUS: ☐ New
 ☐ Renewal

Would you like to be contacted to participate in society activities? If so, your area of interest is: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:
 The Pentwater Historical Society, P.O. Box 54, Pentwater, MI 49449

AUTHORIZED
 SIGNATURE _____



Getting Ice in 1941

Getting Ice in the '40's was a strenuous occupation but a necessary way of life for many. At right, Frank and Maynard Iteen use pevys to guide the ice blocks from Pentwater Lake up a conveyor to be stored in the ice house and then sold to residents and area business.

At far left, Ed Iteen and son George with their team of oxen and a working sleigh.

Photos courtesy of Mrs. George (Betty) Iteen of Ludington.



Frank and Maynard Iteen are cutting blocks of ice on Pentwater Lake with big ice saws while a horse-drawn scraper cleans the snow and rough ice from the surface.



PENTWATER
 HISTORICAL
 SOCIETY
 P. O. BOX 54,
 PENTWATER,
 MICHIGAN 49449

PENTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPRING DINNER AT THE VFW HALL WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, AT 6 PM